

REMARKS

Claims 1-18 have been cancelled. Claims 19-39 have been added. Claims 19-39 are all the claims pending in the application.

Formal matters

Applicant thanks the Examiner for accepting the drawings filed on September 19, 2001. Applicant also thanks the Examiner for reviewing and initialing the documents in Information Disclosure Statements submitted December 6, 2004, October 22, 2004, April 19, 2004, November 8, 2002, and July 22, 2002.

Specification

The Examiner objected to the specification because the word “disclosed” and the phrase “and the like” appear in the specification. Applicant has amended the abstract, and therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to remove the objection.

Claim objections

Claim 1 stands objected to for certain informalities. Claim 1 has been cancelled. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to remove the objection.

Claim rejections

Claims 1-2 and 4-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,593,952 to Funayama. Moreover, claims 3 and 10-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Funayama in view of U.S. Patent No.

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Appln. 09/955,048

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6,312,115 to Hara. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-18 without prejudice. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to withdraw the rejection.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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